

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A container and closure combination comprising:

a container including a bottom wall, an associated side wall defining a hollow interior, a finish having an outer surface and an inner surface, the finish providing communication with the hollow interior and having a central axis, and a first locking means on the outer surface of the finish ~~including a spreading cam and a lifting cam; and~~
a spreading cam and a lifting cam disposed on the outer surface of the finish, wherein at least one of the spreading cam and the lifting cam is adjacent the first locking means; and

a closure to cover the finish of said container including a second locking means cooperating with the first locking means of said container, said closure having a central axis, whereby upon relative rotational movement of said closure and said container, the spreading cam causes the first locking means of said container and the second locking means of said closure to flex away from one another transversely of the central axis of said container and said closure and the lifting cam causes ~~simultaneous~~ relative axial motion of said container and said closure generally parallel to the central axis of said container and said closure to effectively separate said closure from the finish of said container.

2. (Original) The combination defined in claim 1 wherein the first locking means of said container includes a locking tab.
3. (Original) The combination defined in claim 2 wherein the locking tab extends outwardly from the finish of said container.
4. (Original) The combination defined in claim 3 wherein the locking tab includes a cam surface.
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The combination defined in ~~claim 5~~ claim 1 wherein the spreading cam~~[[-]]~~ and the lifting cam are adjacent to the locking tab.
7. (Original) The combination defined in claim 6 wherein the locking tab is centered between the spreading cam and the lifting cam.
8. (Original) The combination defined in claim 2 wherein the second locking means of said closure includes a locking tab.
9. (Original) The combination defined in claim 8 wherein said closure includes a main body and a skirt depending therefrom.
10. (Previously Presented) The combination defined in claim 9 wherein the locking tab of the second locking means of said closure extends inwardly from the skirt.
11. (Original) The combination defined in claim 10 wherein said closure includes an upstanding flange.
12. (Original) The combination defined in claim 11 wherein said upstanding flange is formed to receive the bottom wall of a stacked one of said container.
13. (Original) The combination defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of said container and said closure is formed of a readily deformable material.
14. (Original) The combination defined in claim 13 wherein said material is plastic.
15. (Original) The combination defined in claim 14 wherein said plastic material is flexible.

16. (Original) The combination defined in claim 15 wherein said plastic material is polyethylene terephthalate (PET).
17. (Original) The combination defined in claim 1 wherein the cross-section of the finish of said container taken perpendicular to the central axis is polygonal.
18. (Original) The combination defined in claim 1 wherein the cross-section of the finish of said container is round.
19. (Original) The combination defined in claim 1 wherein the cross-section of said closure taken perpendicular to the central axis is polygonal.
20. (Original) The combination defined in claim 1 wherein the cross-section of said closure taken perpendicular to the central axis is round.
21. (Original) The combination defined in claim 1 wherein the first locking means of said container is comprised of a plurality of spaced apart locking tabs and associated lifting cams and spreading cams.
22. (Original) The combination defined in claim 1 wherein the second locking means of said closure is comprised of a plurality of spaced apart locking tabs and an associated spreading cam and lifting cam.
23. (Original) The combination defined in claim 9 wherein the main body of said closure includes an elastomeric seal for covering and sealing the finish of said container.